



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
Headquarters & Headquarters Company  
30<sup>TH</sup> Medical Brigade  
CMR 442  
APO AE 09042



November 3, 2006

On behalf of the HHC, 30<sup>th</sup> Medical Brigade, we are glad to welcome you to Heidelberg, Germany.

You should be assigned a sponsor by the time you receive this letter, however, if you have any questions or concerns that your sponsor cannot address, at any time throughout your in-processing, please do not hesitate to contact the company headquarters; WE are here for you.

Welcome to the 30<sup>th</sup> Medical Brigade team! The Headquarters Company (HHC) is a vital part of the 30<sup>th</sup> Medical Brigade. The HHC is one small component of a much larger team of deployable medical staffs assigned within the Europe Regional Medical Command (ERMC). Within the Brigade, there are four battalions located throughout Germany. Here you will have the ability to contribute to a mission that spans a wide gamut of operational requirements. You will find out more about this, though, as you enter our organization. For the time being, we want you to focus on getting yourself and your family situated in Germany.

Normally, your in-processing can take up to four weeks as you participate in a set regimen of tasks that facilitate your reception into the European Command. This process will afford you an ample opportunity to find housing and coordinate with transportation and other necessary support activities on post, to include obtaining a U. S. Army Europe (USAREUR) Driver's License regardless the state in which you are presently licensed (everyone over the age of 18 is required to have a USAREUR Driver's License to operate a motor vehicle in Germany). Additionally, you may be required to complete German Head Start, which is a basic German language familiarization course, and, when applicable, your family is encouraged to enroll in FLAG (Families Learning about Germany) to obtain a similar familiarization. Both courses last for approximately one week, are sponsored by the installation's Garrison, and are valuable tools to integrate the total Army team into the overall German community.

Afterward, you will in-process the company and the Brigade headquarters. Once your in-processing is completed, you will begin your normal duty within the headquarters. The HHC Family Readiness Group (FRG) is committed to families and welcomes your involvement, regardless of marital status. The Better Opportunity for Single (and unaccompanied) Soldiers (BOSS) program is also a wonderful way to become involved. These groups provide great support and are eager to assist you in your transition into the central region of Germany.

Heidelberg has a very long and rich history. It is a fascinating place to visit and to live. For example, the city is home to one of the oldest existing universities in the world; the Heidelberg castle (Schloss) is shrouded in history; and, several renowned communities are close by and

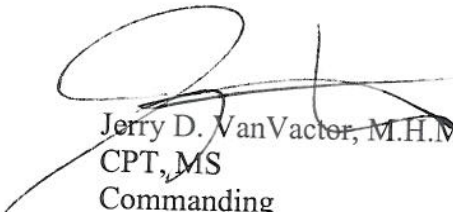
within a short commute from our headquarters (e.g., Mannheim, Worms, Speyer, Karlsruhe, Cologne, etc.).

Heidelberg, much like most communities throughout Germany, has all the amenities of a major installation in the United States. The difference is that most of these agencies may be spread throughout several smaller bases known as Kasernes. If something you need is not available in Heidelberg, you may be required to travel to another community to obtain items. For example, uniform items are available in limited supply in our Military Clothing Sales Store (MCSS). If an item is not available, it can be ordered, or you can drive to Mannheim (20 minute commute) or the Kaiserslautern (45 minute commute) Military Communities to see if their respective MCSS has the items you need. This is not meant to detract from the fun associated with your tour in Germany.

Additionally, skiing is just a short jaunt away in both Germany and other countries as well; however, it is recommended that you obtain a tourist passport, in the event you do not already have one; if you plan to travel internationally. Bear in mind, your military assignment orders bring you into the country of Germany – not into International travel. If you have not obtained one prior to your arrival, there are agencies available for you to obtain one after you get situated. If you like to ski, the German-Austrian Alps (Garmisch, Bertchesgaden, the Edelweiss Resort, etc.) and Swiss Alps are less than two hours away from our community. Many other countries are a short flight away from Frankfurt International Airport which is less than a one-hour drive from Heidelberg. Finally, I would add that Heidelberg is nestled in the Rhein-Neckar river valley and holds its own grasp on history – whether military or European. As an example, while the city was affected very little by the events of WWII, many of the facilities in which we work each and every day once belonged to the German Army - just a bit of trivia to whet your appetite and show you that your experience will be anything but dull while assigned to this organization.

While you and your family are here, please take advantage of all that Heidelberg and the U. S. Army community have to offer. Do not hesitate to get out and explore; if you don't know how or when, just ask – many of our enlisted Soldiers and officers alike spend little time at home when time is available for travel abroad and throughout Germany. Germany excels in public transportation, and you can travel virtually anywhere by train, bus, or car.

Enjoy your time here and from OUR family to you and yours welcome, once again, to Heidelberg and to Germany!



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Commanding